

DESE SPECIAL WIA YOUTH PROJECT SUMMARIES

KIRKSVILLE

Project Agreement: NEMO Workforce Investment Board, Inc.

Operators: Gamm, Inc. and the Kirksville Area Tech Center

Major Partners: Same

The Extended Day At Risk and Enrichment Program, held at the KATC, offers an alternative academic classroom and enrichment program. One purpose is to encourage current students to complete high school. The program will also address dropouts by re-enrolling them in school to complete credits for their diploma. Dropouts may also work on their GED. The Extended day hours (3 to 6pm) will provide students an opportunity to recover lost credits or achieve additional credits towards HS graduation. The Enrichment program (12 to 2:45 pm) involves workplace readiness instruction, counseling, job-shadowing and paid work experience. Students may earn one unit of credit for their work experience participation. The low student-teacher ratio, individualized instruction, and emphasis on mastery rather than performance will fill a need for youth in the Kirksville area.

ST CHARLES

Project Agreement: St Charles County Department of Workforce Development

Operator: Same

Major Partners: ST CC/DWD and University Extension

This project serves pregnant and parenting teens with a two-tier approach. The first part will be 6 weeks of support group style instruction consisting of computer training, life skills, parenting skills and pre-employment skills. The last 6 weeks will be a paid work experience activity. The expected outcomes will be participants becoming credentialed and employed not to mention, better parents.

SPRINGFIELD

Project Agreement: City of Springfield Department of Workforce Development

Operator: Ozark Area Community Action Corporation (OACAC)

Major Partners: OACAC, Job Council and Division of Youth Services

This project establishes a community based, youth to youth helpline. The project is based on a successful program operated in the state of California. Non-violent, non-sexual offenders will operate the center under strict, close supervision. Participants will attend a work readiness skills workshop/training for call center procedures and phone counseling techniques prior to working in the call center. This project will provide offender participants with pre-employment work readiness skills, paid work experience, ABE/GED classes, leadership development and supportive services.

LEBANON

Project Agreement: Lake of the Ozarks Employment Services, Inc. (LOES)

Operator: Same

Major Partners: LOES, Lebanon R 3 School District and Human Resource Dev. Center

This pilot project links academic education to job specific training by directly connecting youth to employment opportunities in the manufacturing industry. This “Youth Opportunities Program” is stationed at the Lebanon Alternative School. Academic services are provided in conjunction with a technical training component in the form of a manufacturing production area housed at the school. At-risk students receive academic coursework, substance abuse education, life skills training and workplace readiness skills for half of the day. The other half will be used for technical skills development via the on-site production area, voc tech classes, COE or WIA work experience. These experiences are designed to lead to permanent employment.